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Conference to focus on saving accurate record of Japan's war crimes

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Preservation of accurate historical accounts of atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II will be the focus of a conference that will take place in San Diego Nov. 15-17.

The Global Alliance for Preserving the History of World War II in Asia will hold its fifth biennial gathering downtown at the Clarion Hotel-Bay View at 660 K St., said Nancy Lo, a conference organizer.

The alliance is made up of more than 40 organizations throughout the world.

Among the alliance's missions is to combat a trend toward "revisionist" textbooks in Japanese schools. Some texts approved by the Japanese government for junior high students omit historical accounts of killings, rapes and torture by Japanese forces, including well-documented reports of crimes committed in Nanking, China.

Other books have dismissed atrocities such as forcing Korean women to serve as sexual "comfort women" for Japanese officers.

"We wanted to open this conference to the public to help people understand that efforts are still needed for justice to be given to the victims of World War II," said Lo, who heads a San Diego group called the Association for Preserving Historical Accuracy in Foreign Invasions in China.

"The ultimate goal is for these kind of atrocities to never happen again," Lo said.

Speakers scheduled to attend the conference include Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, and Assemblywoman Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park. Iris Chang, author of the "The Rape of Nanking," also will speak.

The fee to attend the conference is $30 per person before Oct. 20, and $40 thereafter.

For more information contact Lo at (619) 459-7313. A Web site also has information: http://www.gainfo.org.

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